

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 were pending in the subject application. Applicants have amended claims 5, 7, 9 and 10 to remove improper multiple claim dependencies and to clarify the language of claim 7. Thus, these amendments do not raise any issue of new matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter this Amendment. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-11 will still be pending and under examination.

**Objection to Claims 5-11**

The Examiner objected to claims 5-11 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form for having a multiple dependent claim depend from another multiple dependent claim, and accordingly did not examine these claims on the merits.

In response, applicants note that the claims have been amended to remove all improper claim dependencies. Accordingly, this ground of objection should be withdrawn.

**Rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) (Obviousness)**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent Nos. 5,798,172 (“Funaki”), 5,518,817 (“Yamasaki”), or 5,707,719 (“Yoshinaga”) in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,037,700 (“Davis”) or 4,529,772 (“Druschke”). The Examiner stated that each of Funaki, Yamasaki, and Yoshinaga discloses oriented syndiotactic polystyrene films, wherein the films are suitable as supports of adhesive coatings, but do not explicitly disclose the recited coating. The Examiner further stated that each of Davis and Druschke discloses that it is well known in the art to utilize water dispersible compositions comprising a copolymer comprising acrylate monomers and styrene as an adhesive coating in order to form useful adhesive articles. The Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply known adhesive water-based coatings to the films of Funaki, Yamasaki, or Yoshinaga in order to form highly adherent adhesive articles, using conventional additives to maintain high cohesion and adhesion in wet environments.

Applicants respectfully disagree, and maintain that the claimed invention is not obvious over the cited art. As the Examiner has conceded, none of the Funaki, Yamasaki, and Yoshinaga primary references teaches a layer for improving adhesiveness as recited in

(A) - (H) of claim 1. Applicants assert that neither Davis nor Druschke overcomes this deficiency. Specifically, Davis discloses an adhesive composition formed from a copolymer emulsion that is curable at room temperature and which is useful for bonding the laminae of a flexible laminate. *See, e.g.*, the abstract, col. 2, lines 40-41, and col. 2, line 58 to col. 3, line 10. Applicants emphasize that this composition taught by Davis is a laminating adhesive, not an adhesiveness-improving layer, as claimed in the subject application. Accordingly, even if a person of ordinary skill in the art were to add the laminating adhesive of Davis to any of the films of Funaki, Yamasaki and Yoshinaga, the modification will not arrive at the claimed invention. In addition, if this laminating adhesive were to have an adhesiveness-improving layer applied to it, the resulting adhesion would likely be too strong to be of practical utility. In this respect, applicants assert that Davis teaches away from the present invention because the function of the laminating adhesive taught by Davis is different from that of the adhesiveness-improving layer of the claimed invention, and a laminating adhesive obviates the need for an adhesiveness-improving layer.

Druschke discloses an adhesive composition which requires the presence of an aqueous hydrazine compound as a crosslinking agent. This adhesive composition is a contact adhesive dispersion for use in the production of self-adhesive articles, not an adhesiveness-improving layer, as claimed. *See, e.g.*, col. 2, lines 17-46. Therefore, similar to Davis, even if a person of ordinary skill in the art were to add the laminating adhesive of Druschke to any of the films of Funaki, Yamasaki and Yoshinaga, the modification will not arrive at the claimed invention. In addition, it can be said that Druschke teaches away from the present invention. Accordingly, since none of the primary or secondary cited references, alone or in combination, teach the claim element of using any of resins (A) - (H) to provide an adhesiveness-improving layer, the combination of these references does not teach all of the elements of the claims. Further, since Druschke and Davis teach away from the claimed invention, a person of ordinary skill in the art would neither be motivated to combine references, nor have any reasonable expectation of success in obtaining the claimed invention from so combining the references.

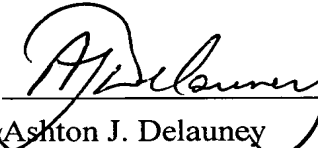
Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, applicants maintain that the pending claims are not obvious over the cited art, and respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above remarks, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections set forth in the September 6, 2007 Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in expediting prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below. No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, in the event that the filing of this paper is deemed not timely, applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Office is authorized to charge such petition fee and any other fees that may be required in relation to this paper to Kenyon & Kenyon's Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Date: November 28, 2007

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